

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-11 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 IGA-02 AGR-20 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ABF-01

HEW-08 AF-10 DRC-01 SCA-01 /205 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6638

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: FY 1976 NARCOTICS PROGRAM GUIDANCE

REF: STATE 171044

1. PRINCIPAL US NARCOTICS PROGRAM OBJECTIVE IN TUNISIA IS TO CONTINUE TO PREVENT COUNTRY FROM BECOMING TRANSIT AND/OR PROCESSING SITE FOR MIDEAST OPIATES. SECONDARY USG GOALS, AND PRIMARY GOALS OF GOT, ARE TO PREVENT IMPORT OF DRUGS AND TO COUNTER LOCAL CONSUMPTION. GOT OFFICIALS ARE FULLY AWARE OF POTENTIAL OF COUNTRY FOR TRANSIT/PROCESSING AND ARE WATCHING CLOSELY FOR INDICATIONS ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT. PRIMARY CONTRIBUTION US CAN MAKE TO ACHIEVEMENT OF BOTH GOALS IS CONTINUATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR TUNISIAN POLICE CHARGED WITH INTERDICTING DRUG FLOW INTO COUNTRY. GOT HAS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AND APPRECIATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN PREVIOUS US NARCOTICS CONTROL TRAINING PROGRAMS AND HAS INDICATED DESIRE TO CONTINUE AT RATE OF ABOUT SIX OFFICERS PER YEAR (TO BE DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN SURETE NATIONALE AND GARDE NATIONALE).

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2. CONSULAR EFFORTS TO ALERT VISITING AMERICANS TO THE SEVERE PENALTIES FOR DRUG USE IN TUNISIA AND DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMS AMONG RESIDENT AMERICAN YOUTH SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE. HOWEVER, RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH GOT OFFICIALS INDICATE THAT NO BASIC ALTERATION OF PAST US NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS IN TUNISIA IS CALLED FOR, SINCE DOMESTIC USE OF DRUGS REMAINS MINIMAL. THERE HAVE, IN FACT, BEEN NO REPORTED INCIDENT OF OPIUM USE THIS YEAR. GOT OFFICIALS BELIEVE BROAD NARCOTICS EDUCATION PROGRAMS AMONG TUNISIANS WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, CREATING CURIOSITY WHERE LITTLE NOW EXISTS.

3. IN 18 YEARS SINCE INDEPENDENCE TUNISIA HAS ACHIEVED PROGRESS IN DRUG FIELD THAT MANY OTHER MIGHT WELL STUDY, REDUCING WIDE-SPREAD USE DURING COLONIAL PERIOD TO VIRTUAL NON-EXISTENCE TODAY. GOT OFFICIALS ASSURE US THAT DRUG USE AMONG TUNISIAN YOUTH IS NOT RPT NOT GROWING SIGNIFICANTLY AND THAT SMALL AMOUNT OF MARIJUANA GROWN LOCALLY IS CONSUMED HERE RATHER THAN EXPORTED. PROBLEM FROM TUNISIAN POINT OF VIEW IS TO PREVENT IMPORT OF DRUGS (WHICH ARE MOSTLY FOR SELF-CONSUMPTION) BY FOREIGN TOURISTS, ESPECIALLY FROM MOROCCO. DRUG PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT REMAIN VERY STRICT; MINIMUM PENALTY IS ONE YEAR IMPRISONMENT WITH NO PAROLE. IMPROVED POLICE TRAINING, INCLUDING PARTICIPATION IN US PROGRAMS, IS COMBINED WITH INCREASING EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING DRUG IMPORTS.

4. MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS OF LAST YEAR HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATION OF ALL DRUG ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN ONE NARCOTICS DIVISION OF THE BRIGADE CRIMINALE IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. THIS DIVISION HAS TOTAL NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL DRUG MATTERS AND DEALS EXCLUSIVELY WITH THIS FIELD. IT HEADED BY TALENTED OFFICER WHO APPEARS TO ENJOY CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF HIS SUPERIORS. HE HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO CONTINUE COOPERATION WITH USG AND OTHER RELEVANT ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS INTERPOL. SEELYE

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